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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,530	11/15/2001	Tsuyoshi Shibata	35.C15944	7273

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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

KANG, ROBERT N

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,530

Applicant(s)

SHIBATA ET AL.

Examiner

Robert N. Kang

Art Unit

2625



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6,11,14-18 and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4-6,11,14-18 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see applicant's request for continued examination, filed 5/30/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 12, 14-18, and 20-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of the applicant's prior patent Shibata (US-PAT 6,530,638).

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claim 1 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,530,638. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the pending application merely claims a specific implementation of the method claimed in the '638 patent. The technique of under color removal, wherein C+M+Y data is replaced with K data, was well known in the industry at the time of invention. Furthermore, in a subtractive color space such as CMY, it is well known that cyan + magenta results in blue.

Because it would have been obvious at the time of invention to one of normal skill in the art to apply the techniques of under color removal to other combinations in the subtractive CMY color space, the pending application is an obvious variation of the issued patent.

3. Claim 11 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 15 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,530,638. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the pending application merely claims a specific implementation of the method claimed in the '638 patent. The technique of under color removal, wherein C+M+Y data is replaced with K data, was well known in the industry at the time of invention. Furthermore, in a subtractive color space such as CMY, it is well known that cyan + magenta results in blue. Similarly, red is created by mixing magenta and yellow, and green is created by mixing yellow and cyan.

Because it would have been obvious at the time of invention to one of normal skill in the art to apply the techniques of under color removal to other combinations in the subtractive CMY color space, the pending application is an obvious variation of the issued patent.

4. Claim 25 is rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 25 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,530,638. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the pending application merely claims a specific implementation of the method claimed in the '638 patent. The technique of under color removal, wherein C+M+Y data is replaced with K data, was well known in the industry at the time of invention. Furthermore, in a subtractive color space such as CMY, it is well known that cyan + magenta results in blue. Similarly, red is created by mixing magenta and yellow, and green is created by mixing yellow and cyan.

Because it would have been obvious at the time of invention to one of normal skill in the art to apply the techniques of under color removal to other combinations in the subtractive CMY color space, the pending application is an obvious variation of the issued patent.

5. Claims 4-6 and 14-18 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6-8 and 19-24, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,530,638. Although the base claims are obvious variations of the '638 patent, the dependent claims are identical.

Conclusion

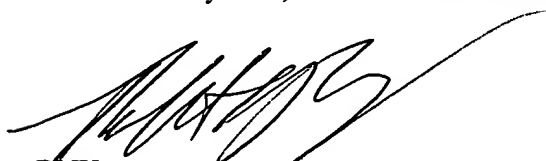
6. This action is NON-FINAL.

Examiner would like to inform the applicant that art unit 2622 has been re-designated as art unit 2625 due to organizational restructuring with the Patent & Trademark Office.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert N. Kang whose telephone number is 571-272-0593. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler M. Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



RNK



TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER